

A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory – Home of Science and Engineering Solutions. Work at the lab advances the Department's strategic goals in the areas of energy, environment, defense and science.

■ ENERGY – INEEL Leads National Discussion on Future of Nuclear Power

The INEEL, in cooperation with six other national laboratories, sponsored the Decision-Makers' Forum on a Unified Strategy for Nuclear Energy earlier this month in Washington, D.C. More than 30 nuclear energy leaders from government, industry, academia and national laboratories attended and provided input to define the vision, goals and strategies needed to guide nuclear energy development and deployment through mid-century. Dr. Paul Kearns, INEEL Laboratory Director, gave the plenary welcome. Opening remarks were then offered by Kyle McSarrow, Deputy Secretary of Energy, who stated, "I believe it is critical that we share not just the maintenance, but the expansion of nuclear energy in the United States. And not just over the next 20 years, but well into the generations beyond that." The completed product from the forum, a document entitled "A Unified Strategy for Nuclear Energy," will be released this fall.

■ ENVIRONMENT – Low-emission, Fuel-saving Vehicles Put Through Paces

The Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity, managed by the INEEL, recently completed one million miles of hybrid electric vehicle fleet testing. The testing includes the miles-per-gallon fuel use, vehicle maintenance and repair data for 18 vehicles, including Honda Civics and Insights, and the Toyota Prius. The cars' fuel efficiencies ranged from 38 miles per gallon to 46 miles per gallon. Each hybrid vehicle was also dynamometer- and track-tested. Details of the testing are available on the web at avt.inel.gov.

■ DEFENSE – Lab Hosts Weapons Detection Workshop

In collaboration with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and Idaho State University's Idaho Accelerator Center, the INEEL National Security Division recently hosted a workshop on methods of detecting weapons of mass destruction that could be smuggled into the U.S. by terrorists. The workshop focused on active interrogation technologies – those that apply an external energy source to a container of otherwise unknown contents to determine the contents. Dale E. Klein, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, gave the keynote address. More than 100 experts from around the country participated in the two-day activity.

■ SCIENCE – INEEL Supports Idaho Science & Technology Efforts

Working with groups from around Idaho, more than two dozen INEEL scientists, senior managers and technology transfer professionals have provided significant support for a strategic planning effort to advance the Idaho Science and Technology sector. Industry representatives, the state's Director of the Office of Science and Technology and Idaho universities are involved in a process to identify and invigorate actions that all involved entities can take to vastly improve the economic return from Idaho's extensive scientific and technological assets and capabilities. This months-long process will culminate in the presentation of an implementation plan in September to the Governor's Science and Technology Advisory Committee, on which Dr. Paul Kearns, INEEL's Laboratory Director, serves.

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